



George Smith

1888 –1917

George was born in Thornhill Lees on 25th February 1888 and baptised at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 21st March, 1888. His father was Joseph Smith, a glass bottle blower, born in Thornhill Lees in 1861 and died in 1903. His mother was Martha (nee Nussey) born in Warmfield near Wakefield in 1863 and died in 1940. They were married at Holy Innocents Church on 5th September 1884.

Their other children were; Eveline, born in 1884, William Henry, born in 1891 and was killed in action 5th July 1916, Arthur, born in 1895, Mary Louisa, born in 1899 and died in 1902 and Clifford, born in 1902

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 7, Cromwell Terrace, Thornhill Lees, in 1901 at 30, Berry Square, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at 1, Queen Street, Thornhill Lees.

George was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Lees Church School and attended the Sunday school. His occupation in 1911 was a Coal Miner and prior to enlistment he worked at Messrs. J Brown & Co Chemical Works in Savile Town.

He enlisted in August 1915 into the King's Own Scottish Borderers and was later transferred to the 2nd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers, serving as Private 24033. He was sent to the Western Front in June 1916. He was killed in action on 23rd April 1917 at the launch of the second battle of the Scarpe during the Battle of Arras. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Reports of his death appeared in the Dewsbury Reporter dated 7th July and 22nd September 1917.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and who have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

George is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

George Smith

24033, 2nd Bn., Royal Scots Fusiliers who died on 23 April 1917 Age 29

Son of Mrs. M. Smith, of 1, Queen St., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

